

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SAJ-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00

OMB-01 /086 W

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R 241739Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7603

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01165

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, UK, MV

SUBJECT: BRITISH ASSISTANCE TO MALDIVES

REF: LONDON 1110

1. WE/ HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY (ODM) THINKING ON ASSISTANCE TO MALDIVES FROM IRVING HARRIS, HEAD OF SOUTH EAST ASIA DEPARTMENT, ODM. ODM FIRST PROVIDED MALDIVES WITH GRANT AID IN 1960. THE INITIAL CONTRIBUTION WAS 100,000 POUND GIFT FOLLOWED BY 750,000 POUND GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS. THIS HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY GRANTS OF
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500,000 POUNDS IN 1968 AND 1973 FOR FURTHER DEVELOP-

MENT PROJECTS. PRESENT UK AID ACTIVITIES REPRESENT
DRAWING DOWN OF LATTER GRANT. FURTHER GRANT PROBABLY
LARGER THAN LAST TWO,OWING TO PRESSURES OF
INFLATION, IS LIKELY EITHER LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY
1976.

2. HARRIS CONFIRMED THAT ODM OLANS TO SEND A STUDY
MISSION TO MALDIVES WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS AS PART OF
ODM'S ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.
MISSION'S PURPOSE WILL BE TO HELP MALDIVES LOCATE
POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ADVISE THE MALDIVES'
GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH OTHER
POTENTIAL DONORS. ACCORDING TO HARRIS,MISSION IS
NEEDED BECAUSE MALDIVES LACKS UNDERSTANDING OF THE
MODERN DEVELOPMENT AID SCENE, IS ONE OF THE 25 LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DOES NOT HAVE A DEVELOPMENT
PLAN. ODM SEES ITS ASSISTANCE AS "PUMP PRIMER" WHICH
WILL SHOW OTHER DONORS THAT MALDIVES CAN USE AID
EFFECTIVELY. IT IS HOPED THIS WILL PROMPT FURTHER
ASSISTANCE FROM UNDP AND POSSIBLE INITIATIVES BY DONORS
SUCH AS US, AUSTRALIA OR ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB).
HE ADDED THAT (CONTRARY TO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM
FCO SOURCES, REFTTEL) ODM IS NOT CONTEMPLATING AN
ADDITIONAL PLEDGE TO ADB FOR PROJECT ASSISTANCE TO
MALDIVES AT THIS TIME.

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